## **County of Wetaskiwin No. 10**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release April 16, 2020

## **Accounts Receivable and Utilities Penalties**

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has created unforeseen and significant hardships for a large number of Canadians, and residents of the County of Wetaskiwin are unfortunately not immune to this. Many have temporarily lost their incomes and others have seen their working hours reduced significantly.

In the last few weeks, both the provincial and federal governments have announced numerous efforts and initiatives intended to help Canadians get through this crisis. Several different financial aid programs and supports have been put in place, and the provincial government has enacted a plan to allow Albertans to work with their utility providers to defer payments until June 19th, without any late penalties or added interest. Additionally, throughout this period, no Albertan will be cut off from their services or see them reduced in any way.

In order to help ease the financial burden on residents who may be struggling through these difficult times, County Council resolved at the April 14th Council meeting to forgive penalties on utility accounts and accounts receivable for the period of March 1st to September 1st, 2020. The current penalty rate for outstanding accounts 1.5%

This Resolution means that, during this time, interest will not accrue on any outstanding balances in these accounts. This applies to all utility accounts and accounts receivable. Residents do not need to apply for penalty forgiveness. However, residents will still be responsible for paying the balance of their accounts and are encouraged whenever possible to do so by the due date listed in each invoice. A notice shall be attached to all utility bills and accounts receivable invoices being sent out during this period advising residents of Council's Resolution.